

ZEKE BILKINS, M. A.



His Cup of Joy Running Over - He Sees Victory For Goldbugger in the National Democratic Convention.

B. "Hello! Mr. Editor.
R. "Hello! Major. Hope you are well to day."

B. "You bet I am. I'm feelin' better than I've felt for twenty years. My cup o' joy is full ter overflowin'."

R. "What has occurred to cause all of this happiness?"

B. "Why, the great victory fer sound money in the Republikin Nashinal Convention, of course. I can't stand still long enuff ter finish talkin' ter yer. I'm just bound ter holler."

R. "I can't understand why a dyed in the wool Democrat like you should take conception firs on account of a Republican convention."

B. "You don't? Well I do. I was affraid the R-publikins would lean ter silver an' that would make the Dymakrat party do the same. But now I see a chance for the gold standard to carry at Chicago. We've gotter lean ter gold now or else we'll make Mr. Rothschilds mad 'z bl ze, an' we can't afford ter do that. The silver crazz wuz gittin' uncomfortably large ter suit me."

R. "Why, I thought you were a red hot silver man yourself. You have been talking that way for some weeks."

B. "Oh, well, you know that wuz all fer effect. We tellers what air talk in silver so loud air simply workin' the gold thimble rig game on folks. While we air talkin' so loud, we air passin' the gold business right along from one hat ter the other."

R. "You are very candid. I must confess. I know that when Cleveland said the way to get free coinage was to demonetize silver, and that the way to make money plentiful was to quit making it, all the Democrats agreed with him. That was pretty bold, now here you come with a plain, open confession that your party - a part of it at least - is taking one thing and intends to do another, is working a gigantic fake. I know that the American people like to be humbugged, but this caps the climax."

B. "You just keep quiet an' wait we are going to raise our record this year. We are gon' ter fool the folks so bad this time that they'll thank us fer it. If the Dymakrat party can't work the biggest confidence game ever started we'll just simply quit an' give the R-publikans another chance. Gude bye!"

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

Trinity College - Prof. John C. Kilgo, President, Durham, N. C.
Agricultural Machinery - Silver Manufacturing Co., Salem, Ohio.
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Read the great June sale of furniture in Mr. E. M. Andrews' advertisement on the 5th page. This is one of the largest and oldest furniture houses in the South, and sends goods all over North and South Carolina. Write to them if you need anything in their line.

LOOK FOR US.

To a business letter our old friend J. T. Eaton, Esq., of Hollywood, N. C., adds: "Come down about the first of August and spend a week and help me eat watermelons. I have twenty five acres planted, and they will be in their prime about that time." Bro. Eaton's farm, which is washed by the waters of the Atlantic, and is called "Paradise," produces more than watermelons, and they are very fine when they grow right on the ocean shore or anywhere else. At any rate, if walking continues good, we will try to accept the kind invitation and take a few dips in the blue waters that tumble, roll, sparkle, and cut up so many capers on the east side of "Paradise." But, if we stay a week Bro. Eaton's 25 acre watermelon patch will look as barren as the country will by the time the Cleveland administration gets through with it. Maybe we will go fishing, too, and catch cold. Capt. Eaton is author of the popular song, "Bruder Eaton's got the coon and gone on."

THE SUPERVISION OF PUBLIC EDUCATION IN N. C.

Address of Prof. Chas. D. McIver, President of the State Normal School, Before the Teachers' Assembly at Asheville, June 17.

In 1890, after my first experience in close contact with the management of our public schools, and after meeting teachers and superintendents at the institutes for a year, I was requested by the State Superintendent to make such recommendations as I thought would improve the public school system. The first recommendation which I made was for an increase of the public school fund, and the second was for a change in the law in regard to county superintendents. As my views are now largely what they were then upon this particular point, I quote from that report:

"The county superintendents whom I have not met are, as a rule, men of character and intelligence, and they honestly desire an improvement in the schools of the State. Some of them are incompetent, of course, but even those who are well qualified for their positions have not the opportunity, on account of small salaries, to do the work that would naturally be expected of a superintendent. They are very poorly paid. The average yearly salary of the ninety-six superintendents, according to your (Mr. Fenger's) last report, was \$175. No man who could become an efficient superintendent can afford to give much of his time for \$175 a year, and pay his expenses out of that. Many of them find it impossible to do anything except to hold examinations. In some counties the salary is only \$50 or \$60. The county treasurers get more for handling the school money than the superintendents do for their work. The average superintendent has another occupation by which he makes his living, and by the necessity of the case, his work as a superintendent is a secondary consideration."

My recommendation is that the State be divided into about thirty school divisions, with three or four counties in each. Let there be one supervisor of each division, and let what has been paid to county superintendents be his salary. His duties would be similar to those of our county superintendents, and he could devote his entire time to examining the teachers, visiting the schools, and arousing educational sentiment in the different portions of his division. This would not necessarily cost any more than the present system does, and I am sure that the schools would be much better. Moreover, it would be easier for the State Superintendent to direct the work of thirty supervisors, whose whole attention would be given to the schools, than to direct the ninety-six superintendents under the present system."

As before stated, I have had no reason to change my opinion on this matter. I know that an ideal system of school supervision would require at least one good superintendent for each county. This superintendent should be a man well educated and active, with the ability to conduct institutes, to instruct teachers in subject matter and methods, and he should be such a good all-round citizen that the people of his county would respect his suggestions and the cause which he represents. I do not believe that the cause of public education will greatly advance in this State until such men shall be put in charge of it and shall come in contact with all the people of each community. The old school law which was changed by the last legislature allowed 4 per cent. of the school fund to be used for supervision. But as 4 per cent. of the fund would not employ a man for each county for all of his time, only about 2 per cent. in some counties was used to employ a superintendent and his work was mainly the examination of teachers. If all of the 4 per cent. had been used, the school authorities could not have employed an efficient superintendent. The very inefficiency of the work of supervision, which was not the fault of the county superintendent or of any other reason in particular, was what made it possible for the system to be abolished by the last legislature. I have no idea that, if we should have an efficient superintendent for each county, it would be possible for any legislature to abolish the county superintendency. I believe that the next legislature, regardless of its political complexion, will be ready to adopt any system of supervision which would be recommended by this body as an efficient system, provided it would not take from the school fund more than the old law allowed to be taken for supervision."

As we cannot have the ideal system, I believe in taking the next best thing. Knowing that it is impossible to have efficiency even if the old order should be restored, and believing thoroughly in the principle that one day's service of a capable expert is worth more than a week's labor by a person who is not an expert, I am a strong advocate of the dividing of this State into divisions or districts, composed of from two to

six counties, making an average of four counties to a division. I would make the salary of the division superintendent 4 per cent. of the school fund in his district. Under this arrangement the average salary would be \$1,350. In this way the State would have the services of twenty-four active, strong men, who must be professional teachers and would give their entire time to the work of education in their respective divisions, instead of the services of ninety-six men of all professions, but chiefly not of the teaching profession, or a small portion of their time each year.

If the efficiency of the supervision and the effect upon the school system be considered, I do not think that there is any question about the advisability of pursuing some such course as I have suggested. The chief advantage to be gained would be, as above indicated, in having a thorough educational worker among the teachers and the people all the year. Besides the examination of teachers, the new law should require that the Division Superintendent meet the teachers of each county yearly and spend at least one week with them, holding institutes and giving instruction in school subjects, school management, and in general matters pertaining to the public school work of the State. Of course there should be a requirement in the law that public school teachers attend these institutes if they desire certificates to teach in the county. He ought to be able to present to the people of each township the question of local taxation for improving the schools, which is the one question that must have the support of the people before we can ever expect such a system of public education in the State as all good citizens desire. He could distribute educational literature, and direct the educational thought of his district through the local newspapers, which have always shown a willingness, and generally an anxiety, to aid in the cause of public education. When local taxation is secured, 4 per cent. of the school fund would be enough to employ a superintendent for each county, and we would gradually come back to the system of one or more supervisors in each county.

From another standpoint the State, while spending no more of its public school fund than the old law allowed, would be the gainer. When bright young men just graduating from college or bright, ambitious young men who do not graduate from college, look over the State to select a field in which to do their life-work, there are many discouragements to their entering the field of education. The highest educational salary paid in the State is only half the salary paid to Congressmen or U. S. Senators, and hardly half as much as is paid to the collectors of internal revenue or district attorneys, is less than is paid to the Judges of the Supreme Court and the Superior Court, and is less than is paid to the Governor or the State Treasurer. Yet it will be conceded that it is more difficult to find a man who has the peculiar equipment desired for the presidency of a university than it is to find a Governor, Congressman, U. S. Senator, or Judge of the Supreme Court. The State also places a badge of poverty upon the profession and tempts its young men to go into other work rather than education, by paying its State Superintendent of Public Instruction one half the salary that it does to its Governor and State Treasurer, and just exactly the same salary that it pays to the first clerk in the Treasurer's office. I believe that it requires more brains, culture, and power to manage the children of the State than it does to manage the money of the State.

One reason why educational progress in North Carolina has been so slow is that so few of our strongest men have been willing to devote their lives to a work promising so small financial reward as compared with the rewards offered in other lines of work. While the salaries of the Division Superintendent would not be large under the scheme which I have proposed, yet the fact that there were twenty-four additional positions in the educational work of North Carolina, giving a man opportunity to do good for his people and at the same time making a living salary, would attract the attention of many of the best educated young men who choose their professions each year, and generally, heretofore, without considering the teaching profession at all as a place of permanent employment. If the State's future depends upon its intelligence, as no one denies, it is our highest duty to make as attractive as we are able to do that work which, above all other work, promotes general intelligence.

If this scheme can be adopted, we will not only improve the quality of supervision, but, will also begin to secure at once in the most intelligent communities the adoption of the system of local taxation, and the teaching profession, the character of which must always determine the intellectual life and progress of the people, will re-

ceive an impetus which would be felt throughout the State.

There are certain difficulties which would arise in the minds of any intelligent person to whom this scheme is presented. The first question would be "How shall this superintendent be selected?" The county superintendents, under the old law, were elected every two years by the Justices of the Peace of the county, the County Commissioners and the County Board of Education, the three bodies sitting in joint meeting for the election. I would suggest that the county boards of education be continued in order that they may settle any school disputes in the county, where appeals may come to them from the district committees. Of course, they would be advised by the Division Superintendent when asked to give his advice. I would also suggest that the same officers who selected the County Superintendent should select electors of the Division Superintendent, one from each county in the division, who should cast the vote of his county at the meeting where the Division Superintendent should be elected. Each county should be allowed its just share of influence in the selection of this officer.

I believe that the law should also require that the man selected should be a man who has been actively engaged in educational work, and it would not be at all necessary that he had lived in the district which he is to supervise any more than that the board of education of each county should be selected for the superintendent of the city schools some men who live in that city. With such restrictions as could be thrown around the position by the new law, I am sure that we would be as likely to secure the right man as we were under the old law, and I can think of few objections to the system proposed which could not be urged with equal force against the old system.

I have received letters from most of the State Superintendents in the Union, and while most of the Northern States have a system so different from ours that we could not conveniently follow their plan of supervision, yet there are States which have something of the problem with which we are confronted, and I find that while all of them would prefer a well paid superintendent for each county, most of them situated as we are say that if the services of an efficient professional teacher cannot be secured for each county, it would be much better to combine two or more counties to secure such a man. Most of the States where the system of public education amounts to very much have already adopted local taxation in the country as well as in their towns. We have adopted the system of local taxation in our towns, and when the system of local taxation is adopted in the country there will be no difficulty in having a superintendent with a salary of \$1200 for each county, as is the case in the 32 counties of Indiana.

In conclusion, I would suggest that the Teachers' Assembly appoint a committee, to confer with the State Superintendent, who knows so much more about the public school law and its details than any other educator in the State, and that this committee, with the advice of the State Superintendent, should present to the next General Assembly a bill providing for a division of the State into twenty-four divisions. The committee would need to take a great deal of time to study the details of the bill to be proposed. It is impossible for such a bill to be presented in detail here, but that such a bill can be framed, and that the scheme is a practical one, I have not the shadow of a doubt.

CHANGE OF DATE.

Correspondence of The Progressive Farmer.
The Wilson County Farmers' Alliance will meet with Thompson's Alliance on the 2nd day of July. The regular time has been changed, owing to the difficulty in securing a speaker. Bro. J. T. B. Hoyer will be the speaker of the day. The public is cordially invited to be with us and bring full baskets. Our dinner will be on the Rock Ridge plan. Every visitor will bring dinner and have a day of feasting and brotherhood love. By order of Thompson's Alliance No. 575.
Thompson's Alliance is about seven miles north of Wilson on the Nashville road, near the Nash and Wilson county line.
A. W. PARKER.

Trinity College advertises in this issue. The past year has been a year of great success in college work. Trinity College is reaching and it is influencing the intellectual life in North Carolina to a marvellous degree. Its faculty has delivered more than a hundred lectures in this and other States during the past year. The courses of study are up to the best standards of college work. Located as Trinity is, in one of the leading cities in the State, it offers to its students opportunities not to be found elsewhere. Young men are brought in contact with the best cultural life, the most successful business enterprises, and have the best opportunity to be come acquainted with the leading men of the State. Expenses are very low, though the appointments of the college are most modern. Extravagant athletics are not allowed. No opportunity is lost to build up the highest cultural life. Young men going to college would do well to examine the catalogue of Trinity.

THE VALUE OF MONEY.

Will the Citizen kindly tell us now what a new silver dollar is worth when the government stamp is obliterated - and why? - Charleston News and Courier.

It would not be a silver dollar if the stamp were obliterated. - Asheville Citizen.

That is the whole thing in a nutshell. The Citizen gave it plainly and pointedly. Of course the News and Courier knew, but, after the fashion of the gold confidence men, asked the question to kill time.

At present the commercial value of a gold piece is more than the same amount of silver coin, that is, if mutilated will bring more in any market in this country. But this is due to the fact that silver is demonetized. A defaced gold dollar will bring probably 90 or 95 cents. A defaced silver dollar between 50 and 60 cents. Demonetized gold, legislative against it as silver has been, and it will drop in value. It may not fluctuate as much as silver on account of the great security of gold, but it will go down. Demonetized silver and it will go up like a skyrocket. You will hear nothing about "cheap" and "debased dollars," unless it is from those who own gold or who want bonds issued. Create a certain, never ceasing demand for anything and it will go up and stay up in value, and this is especially true of anything like silver, which is only mined at great cost and found in limited quantities, and in but few localities. There is nothing the matter with silver except it has been legislated against.



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